

# FACT SHEET | Investing in Public Safety

*2015 Budget for a Better Minnesota*

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This year, Governor Dayton and the Legislature made new investments to ensure Minnesota courts are adequately funded, crime victims have access to essential services, and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension has the tools it needs to catch criminals. The public safety budget signed by Governor Dayton also includes additional resources to assist at-risk youth – helping to keep Minnesota kids from turning to crime or terrorism.

## Funding Minnesota's Court System

- **New Funding for Courts** – For nearly a decade, funding for Minnesota's judicial system remained stagnant, making it difficult for the courts to operate effectively. This session, the Governor and Legislature invested \$37 million in the courts to ensure our Justice System is able to operate effectively.
- **Additional Public Defenders** – This year, the Governor and Legislature provided funding for 36 new public defenders around the state. More public defenders will help reduce caseloads to more manageable levels – ensuring justice and fair representation for all Minnesotans.
- **Investing in Specialty Courts** – Minnesota's drug, mental health, and domestic violence courts work closely with offenders to help reduce repeat offenses. Research shows these courts can improve public safety and save taxpayer dollars. The Governor and Legislature invested \$700,000 this year to continue this important work.

## Supporting Crime Victims and At-Risk Youth

- **Services for Crime Victims** – The Governor and Legislature invested \$1.35 million to assist victims of domestic violence; including culturally sensitive emergency shelter programming.
- **Supporting At-Risk Youth** – The Governor and Legislature invested new resources in a grant program to help discourage Minnesota youth from participating in criminal activities or terrorism. The public safety budget also includes resources for juvenile detention alternatives and for child advocacy centers to better meet the needs of at-risk and troubled youth.

## Investing in Public Safety and Law Enforcement

- **Apprehending Fugitives** – To help apprehend sex offenders and other high-profile fugitives, the Governor and Legislature invested \$1.6 million to add 8 staff to the Department of Corrections Fugitive Apprehension Unit. They also invested \$2 million to add 10 Intensive Supervised Release Agents for sex offenders on supervised release to prevent them from becoming fugitives.
- **Modern Crime Labs** – The budget signed by Governor Dayton invests in modern crime lab resources for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension – replacing aging and inadequate equipment. The new equipment will help the BCA laboratories remain among the best in the country and provide cutting-edge investigative services to local law enforcement.